



The Roadrunner

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



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May 2020

Dear Our Saviour's community:

Greetings! This isn't how we intended to "meet"---but I pray you are well. If you have tuned into our Sunday worship on YouTube then you've seen my face in your home. Thank you for your warm welcome amidst this social distancing. I am here to be your interim pastor during this pastoral transition and cherish the opportunity to walk alongside you.

If you're wondering who I am: While our family roots are in Michigan/Ohio, I was raised in Plano, TX, where I was deeply formed as an ELCA Lutheran in the buckle of the Bible belt. I graduated from Valparaiso University in 2000 with a B.A. in American Studies/Urban Studies then moved to the southside of Chicago to earn my Masters of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Along the way I've done prison ministry, urban ministry, church plants, was a missionary in Hong Kong and spent many summers as a camp counselor. I was ordained at my home congregation, Resurrection Lutheran, in Plano, TX, on July 31, 2004.

My first call was as Associate Pastor with Holy Cross Lutheran, a large suburban church in Wheat Ridge, CO. Beyond typical pastoral duties, my areas of focus were faith formation, congregation life and outreach. In 2008, I was called to be the Lutheran Campus Pastor in St. Louis, MO, serving alongside Washington University in St. Louis & St. Louis University. Our church & society changed greatly in the next decade and it was a holy privilege to accompany young adults through this turbulent time. In June 2019 I began my 3rd call as the Lutheran Campus Pastor for the University of Arizona here in Tucson.

My parents & older sister's family still live in the Dallas area, while my younger sister lives in Naples, Italy, with her family. In my spare time, I love to cook, travel and read. After so many grey seasons, my partner, Dyron, and I are tickled to explore the glorious nature of the desert here---especially by bicycle and hiking trails!

After Pastor Jeff announced his resignation, Bishop Hutterer requested I consider serving as your interim pastor. Truthfully, there is a shortage of interim pastors, especially in Tucson. LCM continues to be my primary call, yet obviously with the COVID-19 pandemic university life has dramatically changed. We have a contract together for 25 hours/week until August 1 at which time we will reassess our partnership. Thank you for your flexibility and open-mindedness during this time.

While some of you may want to jump immediately to interviewing candidates, that is not our process. First we focus on **LISTENING**---in particular I'm trying to get a sense of:

- What's going on here? What's our identity as a faith community?
- What are the points of struggle/tension?
- Who has God called OSLC to be and how do we serve our neighbor?

Please stay in touch! You can contact me: pastor@lutherantucson.org or my cell number is 314.322.8120.

Peace,
Pastor Rebecca Boardman

From the Council President

COVID-19 has forced us into a time of isolation. Even though we are now forced to live in a world of online communication, the mission of Our Saviour's stays the same:

"In the spirit of Jesus, we grow in faith through worship and education, while nurturing and serving God's community."

Daily operations, devotions and worship services have been moved online. Pastor Mateo Chavez, Patty Sirls and Ginny Phillips continue to conduct phone visitations. The property committee is meeting to deal with repairs required in the nursery, sidewalk repairs along Mabel St. and an AC unit in one of the rental properties. A proposal is being written to update our Facebook page. As you can see, Our Saviour's is by no means shut down by COVID-19. Unfortunately, weekly giving has been approximately 1/2 of what it was before we were forced to sequester ourselves. You are encouraged to continue your financial support in order for us to keep our important mission work afloat.

Thank you for the cards, calls and emails containing questions and concerns. The question we received most is **"What's going on?"**

Pastor Rebecca Boardman has joined us in conjunction with Lutheran Campus Ministry. She will be here through the summer and guide us through the battle with COVID-19, the interim period and the search for a permanent pastor. Bishop Hutterer and her team are helping to support us in this endeavor.

In May, we will start identifying a transition team and moving into a time of "Listening".

What are we listening for?

- Your concerns and needs as we move through and out of our response to COVID-19.
- Your ideas and concerns for the search of a permanent pastor.

How will we listen?

Feel free to email us at Council@LutheranTucson.org or Pastor@LutheranTucson.org.

- The Council has created a committee that will create a phone tree. It is the goal to reach every member by phone. We'll ask:
 - Are you healthy?
 - What is the best way for Our Saviour's to communicate with you (phone, mail, email, text, etc.)?
 - Update your contact information
 - What questions or concerns do you have?
- Once all contact information is updated, we will send out a survey asking about your fears/concerns, how your skills can be best used by Our Saviour's and your preferences/thoughts for online communication.

What can you do?

- Continue your financial support.
- Share your ideas and concerns with us.
- Participate in & share with your groups (Bible studies, Choir.) whether it be online or by phone.
- Care for each other.

There is a saying from last summer's VBS: *"When life gets wild...GOD is GOOD!"*

Sheila Bustamante
Council President



Council Corner

April, 2020

Although worship services remain online and our office is physically closed for the time being, the work of our church continues. On April 13 we welcomed Pastor Rebecca Boardman to OSLC. Pastor Rebecca will be serving part-time as our Interim Pastor during the coming months while also continuing in her role as Campus Pastor at the University of Arizona. We look forward to working with Pastor Rebecca during the transition and as we make preparations for calling a new pastor to OSLC. This month Pastor Mateo Chavez also began in his new role as our part-time Visitation Pastor, and Mary Pflibsen joined the Council as our Appointed Treasurer. Our church staff is still hard at work these days, too, but they are working from home as much as possible. Many groups and organizations within the church are also finding creative ways to meet virtually and continue to care for and serve our church community and beyond. Of course we look forward to the time when we can all resume our worship and work together in-person again. In the meantime, though, the Council will be working to update our member's contact information to help us better stay in touch during this time. During the next few weeks we'll also be inviting you to share your questions and concerns via a short survey; you're also welcome to contact the Council Officers via our new group email address at council@lutherantucson.org. Our finances remain healthy at this time, but we do ask for the congregation's help in remembering to either mail offerings to the church office or arranging for automatic online giving; both of these methods help ensure that all of your offerings go directly to the church (without any bank fees).

During these challenging times we trust in God's plan for our future. Please join us in caring for each other and in praying for our church and community.

Report respectfully submitted, OLSC Church Council



May 2020 Roadrunner Notice

These are difficult times we are all going through and the isolation from one another only adds to the upset. We may not be able to get together in person yet, but we can communicate our care and concern for one another in other ways. Our Saviour's is in the process of starting a phone ministry. The basic setup is volunteers will be given a list of members to call and check in on throughout the month. The more volunteers we have, the shorter the call list per volunteer. Prayerfully consider this care opportunity. If this is a ministry you would be interested in please contact me, Bonnie Phelps, either by email at bphelps10@cox.net or text/call me at 520-991-9490 with your name and email address. In the next week or so the practical details of this ministry will be shared via a phone conference call with those interested in serving. Peace be with you all.

Bonnie Phelps Council Vice President

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News From the Office

By Kathryn Barrera,
Parish Administrator

Hello Everyone!

What a month April has been! I hope this Roadrunner finds you all healthy and safe in your homes. The office has been somewhat shut down now since the middle of March and so we are doing our best to respond to emails and voicemails from home. Mark has been working on little projects around the campus to keep the grounds and buildings in good shape, Steve has been focusing on the devotionals and Sunday service videos as well as the online bulletins, Josh has been coordinating with the choral scholars to rehearse and record music for Sunday, and I have been tracking incoming donations and mail as well as working on my usual payroll and financial work. Thank you also to Kent and Mary for their hard work on the Daily Devotional Videos! We are all still keeping busy while also focusing on staying safe. Please remember that you can call (and leave a voicemail) or email us any time at the office for help, prayer, or just to chat.

That's all for now.
God bless!

- Kathryn

